

House Republican Press Release

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Heagney Appointed to Campaign Finance Panel



Simsbury Legislator To Serve On Working Group Reviewing Reform

HARTFORD- State Representative Rob Heagney (R-Simsbury) was appointed today to serve on the Campaign Finance Working Group that will be reviewing campaign finance reform proposals at the state capitol. The appointment came from House Republican Leader Robert M. Ward (R-North Branford) who cited Heagney's leadership and knowledge on the issue at hand when making his selection.

The Campaign Finance Reform Working Group was called for by Governor M. Jodi Rell following the inability of the House and Senate to reach a compromise over versions of campaign finance reform that were advanced by each chamber. The group will attempt to reconcile differences in the legislature on how to overhaul and restructure the way political campaigns are conducted and paid for in the state. Governor Rell asked each legislative leader to select two members, for a total of twelve, to serve on the panel. They will attempt to craft a bill that has the support of all four caucuses and the Rell Administration.

"I have complete confidence in Rob Heagney to get this job done," said Representative Ward. "I selected Representative Heagney to serve on this panel because the magnitude of the issue at hand requires a careful and intelligent approach with a natural attention to detail. Rob has always distinguished himself as such a legislator, whether it was in his previous capacity as Ranking Member on the legislature's Education Committee, or more recently as House Republican Whip. I know he will dedicate himself fully to this important work. He represented the House Republican caucus in the negotiations between the four legislative caucuses and Governor Rell's staff that culminated in the bill that was passed by the House at the end of the regular session. This bill was never taken up by the Senate."

"I am honored to be selected by Representative Ward to serve on this panel," said Representative Heagney. "Reconciling the differences between the multitude of views on the complicated issue of campaign finance reform will be difficult and detailed work. I look forward to working with my colleagues who will be serving on this panel, and I believe that we must remove special interest money from political campaigns as soon as possible and arrive at an acceptable package that all parties can work with. All of us in

the legislature know that restoring public trust and confidence in state government begins with instituting meaningful reform in this area, and it is time to make it happen.”

The Governor has said she will convene a special session of the legislature when the panel has completed its work in order to vote on the final plan.